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25X1

2 July 1973

Central Intelligence Bulletin

CONTENTS

25X1

IRAQ: Defense Minister murdered. (Page 6)

FOR THE RECORD: (Page 7)

25X1

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/08/27 : CIA-RDP79T00975A024800020002-3

Next 5 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2003/08/27 : CIA-RDP79T00975A024800020002-3

25X1

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IRAQ: Baghdad has announced the murder of its Defense Minister and the wounding of the Interior Minister. The two ministers, both members of the Revolutionary Command Council, have been identified as supporters of President Bakr, who returned to Iraq on 30 June after a short trip to Eastern Europe. Public security director Nazim Kazzar apparently was behind the incident. Kazzar, although a subordinate of the wounded Interior Minister, is thought to report to Iraqi strongman Saddam Husayn Tikriti. The incident may presage an intensified struggle for power within the ruling Baath Party.

25X1

25X1

2 Jul 73

Central Intelligence Bulletin

6

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25X1

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China: For the second year in a row, the anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party on 1 July passed without fanfare. No special events have been reported; there was no joint editorial. The leadership did not appear in Peking's parks as it has on other holidays. []

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North Vietnam - USSR: Party First Secretary Le Duan and Premier Pham Van Dong will pay an official friendship visit to Moscow in mid-July, according to a communiqué from Hanoi. []

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Romania - West Germany: President Ceausescu returned from a four-day visit to West Germany on 30 June, apparently satisfied that he succeeded in his major objective of expanding bilateral economic ties. []

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**These items were prepared by CIA without consultation with the Departments of State and Defense.*

2 Jul 73

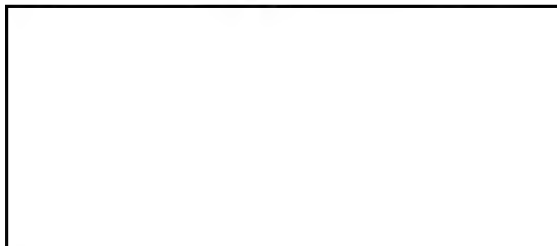
Central Intelligence Bulletin

7

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